**Request for 50 per cent textile requirement by handlooms on conversion basis**

1756. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are in receipt of representations from handloom weavers requesting Government to get atleast 50 per cent of textile requirements produced on handlooms of conversion basis, in view of the failure of the S.I.M.A. Coimbatore to supply yarn at prebudget prices as promised by it to the Government of India; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The basic idea behind promoting formation of cooperative societies and setting up of Handloom Development Corporations in different States was to supply yarn through these agencies to the weavers and on payment of reasonable wages. procure and then market woven products either through retail, wholesale or through supplies to Government departments. One of the problems of weavers in Andhra Pradesh was the decision of the State Government to withdraw the earlier priority accorded to handloom agencies in supply of liveries and other items to Government departments. The State Government has since restored the earlier position and off-take of handloom products has improved. Ministry of Textiles has taken up with various Union Ministries and Departments as also with public sector undertakings to give priority to handloom products for meeting their textile requirements.

**Meeting held between Ministry of Textiles and S.I.M.A.**

1757. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the proceedings of the meeting held by the Ministry of Textiles with SIMA, Coimbatore on 17th January. 1992 about its failure to keep up the commitment to supply 4000 bales of cotton yarn of 400 lbs each per month at pre-budget prices for distribution among the handloom weavers in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether any reply has been received by the Government from the S.I.M.A., Coimbatore by 25th February, 92 as promised by them; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the reply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) A meeting was convened on 17th January, 1992 under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Textiles) in which Commissioner (Hndlooms). Andhra Pradesh, Director (Handlooms), Tamil Nadu, Chairman. U.P. State Textile Corporation, representative of Southern Inlia Mills Association, North Indian Cotton Mills Association and others were present After review. it was observed that SIMA had failed to fulfil their assurances in making available adequate quantities of hank yarn to designated agencies at pre-budget prices. The representatives of SIMA pleaded for time for finalising the requisite arrangements in consultation with their member mills and asked time up to 25th January, 1992.

,(b) A reply has been received from the Indian Cotton Mills Federation dated February 18, 1992 which includes an offer from S.I.M.A.

(c) Indian Cotton Mills Federation has offered to supply four thousnd bales of yarn at 5 per cent below the invoice price of representative mills as obtaining on February 14, 1992.